



FACT SHEET FOR SECURITY PRESCRIPTION FORM PRINTERS

Effective July 1, 2004, prescribers may begin using a new tamper-resistant prescription form for Schedule II prescriptions and effective January 1, 2005, the new form must be used for all written controlled substance prescriptions. Printers of these forms must be specifically approved by the California State Board of Pharmacy and the California Department of Justice. This fact sheet will explain the process to become a state-designated “security printer.”

Background

The Governor signed Senate Bill 151 on September 16, 2003. Senate Bill 151 is a complex bill that makes substantial changes to California law regarding the prescribing of controlled substances over the next two years. This bill repeals the longstanding requirement for state issued triplicate prescription forms for Schedule II controlled substances. Effective July 1, 2004, prescribers may begin using a new tamper-resistant prescription form for Schedule II prescriptions. Triplicate prescription forms will remain valid until January 1, 2005. As of January 1, 2005, all written controlled substance prescriptions (Schedules II – V) must be on the new tamper resistant prescription form. Phone and fax orders for Schedules III-V drugs are still permitted. However, prescribers should not use the new tamper-resistant forms for orders they will fax because required security features of the new form will result in a voided prescription. Instead, ordinary prescription forms should be used for faxed prescriptions.

Process for Approval as a State-Designated “Security Printer”

Private security printers that wish to produce the new tamper-resistant controlled substance prescription forms must first be approved by the California State Board of Pharmacy and the California Department of Justice. The application and instructions are available from the California State Board of Pharmacy Web site at www.pharmacy.ca.gov/security_printer.htm. Specific requirements for security printers and the security features required for controlled substance prescription forms are outlined in [California Health and Safety Code sections 11161.5 et seq. and 11162.1 et seq.](#)

Printers must apply to the California State Board of Pharmacy to obtain approval as a “security printer.” If approved, the Board of Pharmacy will then forward the application to the California Department of Justice for consideration. The California Department of Justice has 30 days in which to approve or deny the application. The California State Board of Pharmacy will notify approved applicants in writing and will post the name, address, and telephone number of all approved security printers on its Web site. If the application is denied, the applicant will be notified in writing by the agency denying the application along with instructions for appeal.

Generally, applicants are screened for prior criminal history and the adequacy of policies and procedures to ensure that prescription forms are only produced and distributed to appropriately licensed practitioners. The new law requires that security printers have a means for confirming the licensure and prescribing privileges for any person requesting controlled substance prescription forms. ([See Health and Safety Code section 11161.5 et seq.](#))

The Board of Pharmacy will maintain a list of approved security printers on its Web site at www.pharmacy.ca.gov/security_printer.htm. Keep checking the Web site for the most current information.